Appln. No.: 09/867,906
Amendment Dated October 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2005

MTS-3260US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-17 are presently pending. All pending claims stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the remarks set forth below.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,857,013 to Ramberg et al. (herein Ramberg). Claims 3-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Ramberg.

Claim 1 includes one or more limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record. Claim 1 recites the following:

1. A GUI-equipped terminal apparatus which is connected to another terminal device through a network, and forms a distributed software environment, comprising:

GUI display means;

a virtual language environment which is a program execution environment in which a program code generated in a predetermined language can be executed independent of a specific type of apparatus;

access limit confirmation means of operating in another execution environment different from said virtual language environment; and

network I/F means,

wherein:

said network I/F means exchanges information with another terminal device through the network;

said GUI display means displays an application GUI at an instruction from an application executed in said virtual language environment, and displays an access limit confirmation GUI at an instruction from said access limit confirmation means; and

said access limit confirmation means receives an access confirmation message encrypted by another terminal device through said network I/F means, and transmits an encrypted access confirmation reply message to said other terminal device through said network I/F means.

Appln. No.: 09/867,906
Amendment Dated October 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2005

MTS-3260US

This means that a terminal with a graphical user interface (GUI) display is connected to another terminal through a network. The GUI-equipped terminal includes a virtual language execution environment and an access limit confirmation means operating in another execution environment. Program code generated in a predetermined language (e.g., Java) may be executed in the virtual language environment. In operation, the GUI display displays an application GUI at an instruction from an application executed in the virtual language environment and displays an access limit confirmation GUI at an instruction from the access limit confirmation means operating in the other execution environment.

The features of claim 1 provide improved security for devices that access other devices over a network. For example, in a situation where a networked device such as a TV accesses functionality of a modem, the TV may request access to a network through the modem. The modem may then respond by requesting confirmation from the TV. Confirmation by the TV would be handled by the access limit confirmation means that operates outside of the virtual environment. If confirmation is to be presented, confirmation is sent by the TV back to the modem. Accordingly, the access limit confirmation means operates in an environment outside of the virtual environment, making the system more secure to intruders.

Ramberg, on the other hand, is directed to remote anomaly diagnosis in reconfiguration of an automatic data collection (ADC) device platform over a telecommunications network. In Ramberg, ADC devices such as bar code readers may be remotely diagnosed and reconfigured by a remote service technician.

Ramberg, however, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the access limit confirmation means of claim 1. The Office Action recites that Ramberg discloses "an access limit confirmation means of operating in another execution environment different from said virtual language environment" referring to col. 7 lines 27-53 and col. 8 line 63 through col. 9, line 5 of Ramberg. These sections of Ramberg refer to a management information base ("MIB"). The MIB is accessed through a simple network management protocol ("SNMP") for network management. SNMP is a virtual language environment. Accordingly, the MIB operates in the virtual language environment rather than in another environment different from the virtual language environment. Accordingly, Ramberg fails to disclose, teach, or suggest an access limit confirmation means of operating in another execution environment different from said virtual language environment as set forth in claim 1.

Appln. No.: 09/867,906
Amendment Dated October 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2005

MTS-3260US

Additionally, Ramberg fails to disclose a GUI display that displays an application GUI at an instruction from an application executed in a virtual language environment, and further displays an access limit confirmation GUI at an instruction from an access limit confirmation means operating in another execution environment different from the virtual language environment. The Office Action recites that Ramberg discloses "said GUI display means displays an application GUI at an instruction from an application executed in said virtual language environment, and displays an access limit confirmation GUI at an instruction from said access limit confirmation means," and references col. 8, lines 48-56 of Ramberg. The referenced section of Ramberg recites as follows:

> This embodiment also provides a Java web browser interface that allows a remote service technician to reconfigure one or more ADC device platforms 100 from anywhere on the network. The embodiment further provides Java applets that perform system reconfiguration tasks for the ADC devices platforms 100 on the network. This applet may include a graphical user interface ("GUI") that operates from both the network controller 110 and from a web browser on the remote computing system 120.

The GUI referred to in this section of Ramberg remotely displays content from an ADC device 100 on a network controller 110 or remote computing system 120 rather than on the ADC device 100 itself. The GUI display means of claim 1, however, locally displays both an application GUI at an instruction from an application executed in a virtual language environment and an access limit confirmation GUI at an instruction from an access limit confirmation means. Thus, Ramberg fails to disclose, teach, or suggest this additional feature of claim 1.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, applicants contend that claim 1 is allowable over Ramberg and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Independent claims 3 and 6, while not identical to claim 1, include features similar to claim 1. Accordingly, applicants contend that claims 3 and 6 are also allowable over Ramberg for the reasons set forth above.

Independent claim 17 includes features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Ramberg. Claim 17 recites the following:

Appln. No.: 09/867,906
Amendment Dated October 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2005

MTS-3260US

17. In a users network including first and second terminals communicating with each other, in which the first terminal executes programs using a first virtual language and the second terminal executes programs using a second virtual language, and the second terminal controls access to a communications network, using,

a method of controlling access to the communications network comprising the steps of:

(a) requesting, from the first terminal to the second terminal, access to the communications network;

(b) using an execution program, free-of the second virtual language, in the second terminal to determine if access is permissible to the requesting first terminal in step (a);

(c) sending, from the second terminal to the first terminal, an encrypted access confirmation message to confirm the access request of step (a);

(d) using an execution program, free-of the first virtual language, in the first terminal to decrypt the encrypted access confirmation message sent in step (c) and confirm the access request of step (a);

(e) replying, from the first terminal to the second terminal, an encrypted reply message to the decrypting performed in step (d); and

(f) granting the first terminal access to the communications network, after successfully performing step (e).
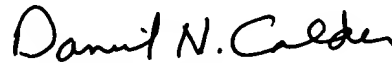
This means that a first terminal requests access to a communications network through a second terminal. In a non-virtual language execution environment, the second terminal determines if access is permissible to the first terminal. The second terminal then sends an access confirmation message to confirm the access request. An execution program outside of the virtual language environment in the first terminal confirms the access request and replies to the second terminal. The second terminal then grants the first terminal access to the communication network.

Appln. No.: 09/867,906
Amendment Dated October 19, 2005
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MTS-3260US

Ramberg is devoid of such features. In Ramberg, a remote technician at a remote computer 120 or a network controller 110 may access the functionality of an automatic data collection device. Ramberg, however, is entirely devoid of any transfer of signals between the automatic data collection device and either the remote computer or the network controller in which any of these devices requests access, sends a confirmation message to confirm the access request, and then replies to the access request to gain access to a communications network. Accordingly, Ramberg does not disclose, teach, or suggest each and every limitation of claim 17. Accordingly, applicants contend that claim 17 is allowable over Ramberg and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 17 be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4, 5, and 7-16 include all of the features of either claim 1, claim 3, or claim 6, from which they depend either directly or indirectly. Thus, claims 2, 4, 5, and 7-16 are also allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above that the independent claim from which they depend is allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the remarks set forth above, the applicants contend that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 19, 2005

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 19, 2005

Beth Johnson

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